

## Mental Health Commission

State law requires that each county have a Mental Health Board or Commission. Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for three-year terms. Those terms may be extended. Commissioners advise the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Mental Health on various aspects of local mental health programs.

- The role of the commission is established in the Welfare and Institutions Code, under 5604.2.
- Review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, services, facilities, and special programs.
- Review any county agreements entered into pursuant to Section 5650 W.I.C.
- Advise the Board of Supervisors and the local mental health director regarding any aspects of the local mental health programs.
- Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process.
- Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the county's mental health system.
- Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of the local director of mental health services. The Commission shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the governing body.
- Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the State Mental Health Planning Council.
- Assess the impact of the realignment of services from the state to the county on services delivered to clients and on the local community.

The Board of Supervisors may transfer additional duties or authority to a mental health board or commission.

## Membership

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission consists of sixteen members. By law, one member of the Commission must be a member of the Board of Supervisors. Section 5604 W.I.C. sets very specific membership requirements. Fifty percent of the Commission membership shall be consumers or the parents, spouse, sibling, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received mental health services. Consumers constitute at least 20% of the total membership. Families of consumers constitute at least 20% of the membership.

The law also establishes special requirements on ethnic diversity and conflict of interest. Commission membership should reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population in the county and the demographics of the county as a whole, to the extent feasible.

The special requirement in relation to conflict of interest is that "No member of the Commission or his or her spouse shall be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health service, an employee of the State Department of Mental Health, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of a Bronzen-McCorquodale contract agency."

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Mental Health Commission, contact your Board of Supervisors representative.

First District  
Gloria Molina (213) 974-4111

Second District  
Mark Ridley-Thomas (213) 974-2222

Third District  
Zev Yaroslavsky (213) 974-3333

Fourth District  
Don Knabe (213) 974-4444

Fifth District  
Michael D. Antonovich (213) 974-5555

## Annual Events

- Connections for Life Conf ~ April 2014
- 15<sup>th</sup> Profiles of Hope Awards~ October 2014
- May & October Mental Health Awareness
- Stepping In/Law Enforcement ~ April 2014
- Annual Housing Conference
- CALMHBC (January/March/June/October)

## Public Meeting Information

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, January through October, and the third Thursday in November and December. Meetings are held from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M. Most meetings are held in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. For Commission minutes or other information, please call the Commission at (213) 738-4772. The Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of each month. The chairperson may change the date and time of the Executive Committee.

## 2014 Meeting Dates

Executive Committee	Full Commission
January 9	January 23
February 13	February 27
March 13	March 27
April 10	April 24
May 8	May 22
June 12	June 26
July 10	July 24
August 14	August - Dark*
September 11	September 25
October 9	October 23
November 6	November 20
December 4	December 18

\*The full Commission does not meet in August unless there is an emergency.

## Commissioners

Larry Gasco, PhD, LCSW  
Chairman  
Underrepresented Population/Legislation

Herman L. DeBose, PhD  
Vice Chair  
Multicultural Relations

Delores B. Huffman  
Secretary  
Housing Advisory

Frank C. Baron  
CALMHB/C Coordinator

Hayward McNeill, MPH  
Health and Public Health Administration

Judy A. Cooperberg, MS, CPRP  
Antelope Valley Services

Barry Perrou, PsyD  
Forensic Mental Health Law Enforcement

Victoria A. Sofro  
Mental Health Transformation/Education & Employment

Howard L. Askins, MD, JD  
Clinical Policy

Arnold L. Gilberg, MD, PhD  
Health and Public Health

Jerry Lubin, AICP  
Past Chair  
Planning, IS, Evaluation/Older Adults/MHSA Policy

### BOARD OF SUPERVISOR REPRESENTATIVE

Phillip Chen, Health Deputy, 5<sup>th</sup> District

## Board of Supervisor Designation

### COMMISSIONERS BY SUPERVISORY DISTRICT

Gloria Molina  
First District

Howard L. Askins, MD, JD  
Vacant  
Vacant

Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Second District

Delores Huffman  
Hayward McNeill, MPH  
Herman L. DeBose, PhD

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Third District

Arnold L. Gilberg, MD, PhD  
Frank C. Baron  
Jerry Lubin, AICP

Don Knabe  
Fourth District

Vacant  
Larry Gasco, PhD, LCSW  
Vacant

Michael D. Antonovich  
Fifth District

Barry Perrou, PsyD  
Judy A. Cooperberg, MS, CPRP  
Victoria A. Sofro

The Mental Health Commission is committed to  
supporting the Department of Mental Health vision:

**"Partnering with clients, families and communities to  
create hope, wellness and recovery"**

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## Los Angeles County



## Mental Health Commission

550 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Telephone: (213) 738-4772  
Fax: (213) 738-2120

Larry Gasco, PhD, LCSW  
Chairman

Herman L. DeBose, PhD  
Vice Chair

Delores Huffman  
Secretary

Terry G. Lewis, MS  
Executive Director

**Established October 7, 1957**

Email: [mentalhealthcommission@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:mentalhealthcommission@dmh.lacounty.gov)

Webpage ~ [www.dmh.lacounty.info/mhc/](http://www.dmh.lacounty.info/mhc/)